

fly balls. Several hits have been recorded which under ordinary conditions would have been certain outs. Browns and Sox have had about an even break in the luck on this score.

Given decent weather conditions and the present trio of Sox outfielders will make it difficult for the enemy to drive the ball safely in suburban territory if it rises high in the air. Jackson appears to be covering more ground than ever before in his life, and Liebold, who has been troubled in right field more than the other two by the high wind, is able to travel great distances after aerials.

But Happy Felsch in center field is the boy to watch. This chunky person received comparatively little press-agenting last season because of the every-day manner in which he went about his work. His daily record of consistency, however, has focused attention on him and he is generally regarded as one of the most competent fly catchers in the Johnson circuit, not even excepting Tris Speaker.

Hap has added some fight and vocal ginger to his make-up. When the Hose are in the field his voice can be plainly heard from deep center, demanding that his pals in the first line keep their heads up and in the game. Such a spirit is a fine thing for a ball team and helps keep the boys on their toes.

Manager Mitchell of the Cubs seems in the humor to give Dutch Ruether a thorough trial at first base. The revamped left-handed pitcher is fighting hard for the berth. To spur him on he has the knowledge that Mitchell is stocked up with capable pitchers, but has no one else capable of winning the initial sack in anything resembling big league style.

All he needs is a few hits. That will give him confidence in himself and also insure his retention on the job while he learns the finer points of the defensive side. At present he is a bit weak on ground balls because the angle at which they come

is new to him. Fortunately, he is playing with three infielding mates who are more accurate in their throwing than the usual run of infielders. This makes his work less difficult and does not force him to shift so much take weird heaves.

He needs tutoring in how to protect himself from injury. This is the one thing that casual first basemen have the greatest difficulty with. A few seasons back in Cleveland they tried to use Joe Jackson at first. Joe could catch throws and stop grounders, but he couldn't protect himself from baserunners tearing into the bag and as a result was spiked and put out of the game for some time.

Al Demaree is making a bid for a regular turn in the box and was good against Pittsburgh for six innings. Mitchell, following the lessons he learned from George Stallings, prefers to get four pitchers, or even three and use them in regular order. He sees no reason why a physically strong man shouldn't be able to throw a baseball nine innings every fourth day. So far Mitch has been seeking the proper combination. Vaughn and Douglass are certain members of the quartet. He needs two more.

Today the Cubs wind up in Pittsburgh and go on to Cincinnati for their first engagement of the season with Christy Mathewson's club. Five games are carded with the Reds.

Ragan and Nehf beat Giants in the New York opener. Kelly, former Cub, won for the Braves in the 14th with a single.

Cravath's homer and Alexander's pitching beat Brooklyn. Gavy also hit a double.

Hornsbey hit a triple and homer as Cards beat Reds. Mathewson's team is hitting hard, but not making the bingles count for runs.

Ping Bodis failed to hit, but the Macs beat Washington anyhow, mainly on J. Johnson's pitching. Witt knocked three hits.

Young hit a homer in the ninth